

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

HELPING TEXANS GO. HELPING TEXAS GROW.

New Photo ID Rules - FAQs

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) Board has adopted new rules regarding what identification documents are acceptable to be presented by an applicant for title or initial registration.

Effective September 3, 2012, all dealers or their employees will be required to visually check for ID from at least one of the customers applying to title and register a vehicle through their dealership to verify owner information. Prior to this date there was no such requirement in Texas.

What are the acceptable forms of ID?

Through August 31, 2013, an acceptable form of ID is any government-issued ID with a photo, unique identification number, birth date, and expiration date. The ID may not be more than one year expired and must be acceptable to the licensed dealer.

Beginning September 1, 2013, the only acceptable IDs will be a:

- A driver license or state identification certification issued by a state or territory of the U.S.
- U. S. or foreign passport
- U. S. military identification
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) identification
- U. S. Department of Homeland Security identification-issued document
- Identification issued under a U.S. Status of Forces Agreement
- U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation

Why did the rules change?

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Board passed these rules as a result of two new state laws (HB 2017 and HB 2357) that allow for identification to be presented at application for title and first time registration. This change does not apply to vehicle registration renewal. The new identification requirements are another step towards creating more self-service electronic services for dealers and their customers. The state is moving towards the use of an electronic title in substitution of a paper title. The use of a verifiable ID is a federal requirement for being able to perform odometer statement verifications online. The ID requirement will best ensure the integrity of the motor vehicle database as well.

Whose ID is required if a vehicle is titled in a business name?

The ID of the person who signed the transaction must be presented to verify that they are an authorized proxy for the business along with one of the following: a business card or company letterhead giving the person authority to title the vehicle.

Is an ID required for government agencies, exempt agencies, non-profits and churches?

Yes, the requirements for these organizations are the same as vehicles titled in a business name.

Whose ID is required for leased vehicles?

Either the ID from the person leasing the vehicle or the leasing company agent is required. The same requirements for a business are required if the leasing company agent ID is submitted.

If a vehicle is going to be titled in two or more names, are all IDs required?

Only one owner has to submit an ID at the time of the application for title or registration.

What if an ID is expired?

For title and registration purposes, an ID will be accepted up to 12 months after the date of expiration.

Can a transaction be denied by my dealership if we believe the ID is fraudulent?

Yes.